



## COUNCIL

**MEETING** : Thursday, 21st November 2019

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Organ (Mayor), Finnegan (Sheriff & Deputy Mayor), James, Watkins, Cook, Gravells, Morgan, H. Norman, Stephens, Hilton, Tracey, Lugg, Hanman, Lewis, Wilson, Bhaimia, Haigh, D. Brown, Dee, Taylor, Field, Hansdot, Patel, Toleman, D. Norman, Pullen, Hampson, Brooker, Brazil, J. Brown, Coole, Hyman, Melvin, Walford and Bowkett

**Others in Attendance**

Managing Director

Corporate Director

Head of Place

Head of Cultural Services

Solicitor

Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Williams, Derbyshire and Ryall

### 36. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

36.1 Councillor James (Leader of the Council) nominated Councillor Cook. He described Councillor Cook as having a passion for the environment and stated that he was sure this theme would run through Councillor Cook's leadership should he be elected.

36.2 Councillor Watkins seconded the nomination. She advised Members that in her opinion Councillor Cook was a passionate, caring and hardworking ambassador for the city.

**36.3 RESOLVED** that Councillor Richard Cook be elected Leader of the Council.

36.4 Councillor Tracey paid tribute to the previous Leader of the Council Councillor James. She highlighted some of his achievements as Leader and Councillor since 1996 including the regeneration of the Quays, new Transport Hub and dealing with the aftermath of the 2007 floods. Councillor Tracey further commented on his personal qualities such as a willingness to go out of his way to help anyone regardless of their political background.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

- 36.5 Councillor Hilton congratulated Councillor Cook on his election and looked forward to working with him in the same friendly vein shown by Councillor James.
- 36.6 Councillor Stephens wished Councillor Cook success as Leader of the Council. On behalf of the Labour Group he recognised Councillor James's dedication and hard work that had driven forward the regeneration of the city.
- 36.7 Councillor James thanked all current and former Members, officers and residents but most of all his family for their support over the years. He recalled some of the achievements under his leadership that he was particularly proud of including the Joint Core Strategy, transfer of housing stock to Gloucester City Homes, cultural renaissance in the city, introduction of an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach to Council working and many others which he reminded Members had been undertaken against reducing budgets.
- 36.8 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) announced that Councillor H Norman had accepted the invitation to be Deputy Leader of the Council and that the composition of Cabinet would remain unchanged.
- 36.9 Councillor D Norman gave a vote of thanks to the previous Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Watkins. He recounted examples of her passion and commitment to residents over the preceding ten years that had given the city Purple Flag status, the Nightsafe Partnership and free public WiFi among many other things.
- 36.10 Councillor Watkins thanked everyone she had worked with, particularly the communities and people of Gloucester, and commented that cooperating in partnership had been the most important component of her achievements.

**37. MINUTES**

- 37.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 38.1 Councillor D. Norman declared an interest in agenda item 14 (4) by virtue of him being Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for libraries.

**39. CALL OVER**

- 39.1 The Mayor invited Members to indicate whether they wished to reserve agenda items 10, 11, 12 and 13 for discussion. Members indicated that they wished to reserve item 10 for discussion.
- 39.2 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded a motion that the Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

**39.3 RESOLVED** that the Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel be approved.

39.4 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded a motion that the Urgent Decision of the Managing Director be approved.

**39.5 RESOLVED** that the Urgent Decision of the Managing Director be noted.

39.6 Councillor Cook (Leader of the Council) moved and Councillor H Norman (Deputy Leader of the Council) seconded a motion that the Councillor Leave of Absence be approved.

**39.7 RESOLVED** that the Councillor Leave of Absence be approved.

**40. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

40.1 A resident of Gloucester stated that the number of suicides in Gloucester over 2017 had been reported in the Citizen newspaper as 43 but that the article was withdrawn the next day. He noted that this figure had been clarified in the minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (51.4) as relating to 2013-15 not 2017 and asked who had withdrawn the Citizen article, on whose advice, and whether 43 was the true figure for 2017.

40.2 Councillor Watkins advised that the article in question published on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 was still available on the Citizen's website and that the clarification had been correct.

**41. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)**

41.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

**42. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor

42.1 The Mayor thanked everyone who attended and supported the civic Remembrance Services.

42.2 The Mayor informed Members that he and the Sheriff had visited six schools who had contributed to Christmas Lantern Procession and thanked all the children, teachers and artists who had made the event successful.

42.3 The Mayor reminded Members that both the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Rifles Homecoming and Freedom Parade and the Rotary Club of Gloucester's Tree of Light switch on ceremony would take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

42.4 The Mayor made Members aware that special guests would be attending the special Council meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November when conferring the Freedom of

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

Entry to the City upon NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) would be considered.

The Leader of the Council

- 42.5 Councillor Cook summarised the background to the Council's environmental and waste contract with Amey and the dispute over income from recyclates. He announced that the dispute had been settled. Councillor Cook advised Members that although textiles and batteries would no longer be collected, small electrical items now would. He stated that there would be a major publicity campaign to encourage residents to use one box for glass, a second for plastic, cans, tetrapaks, aerosols and foil, the blue sack for paper and cardboard, and food waste in the brown caddy. Council Cook informed Members that new 12 and 24 month contracts had been entered into for the sale of recyclates so that they would no longer be sent overseas, that Amey will guarantee that the Council's income would not fall below current levels such that the value of recycling sales should improve by £220,000 per year, an increase close to £500,000 for the period to March 2022, and that they will now bear the risks associated with contamination during their collection, sorting and storage of materials. He further reported that the Council would retain £225,000 of the funds previously withheld and that Amey would be subject to a set of Key performance indicators to include financial penalties for non-compliance. Councillor Cook stated that a contract variation was being drafted which would be brought to Cabinet for consideration and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if requested. He advised Members that he anticipated that taken together the measures would represent a £720,000 financial benefit to the council tax-payers of Gloucester by March 2022.

Members of the Cabinet

- 42.6 Councillor Morgan, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, drew Member's attention to the Pinocchio adventure performance at the Gloucester Guildhall to be held over the Christmas period.
- 42.7 Councillor Morgan also advised Members that although the bid to be UK City of Culture 2025 no longer had support across all political groups, he would continue to push forward the ambitions laid out in the Cultural Vision and Strategy published in 2016.
- 42.8 Councillor Morgan further announced that a bid would be prepared for a significant amount from the government's Cultural Development Fund to showcase the city's heritage and revitalise the Museum of Gloucester.
- 42.9 Councillor Gravells, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy, drew Members' attention to the ongoing consultation for the Pre-submission City Plan and took the opportunity to urge them to encourage as people as possible to engage with it.

Chairs of Committees

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

42.10 Councillor Coole, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reminded Members that the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> November would be held in the Fisher Room of the Gloucester Guildhall and that all were welcome to attend.

Head of Paid Service

42.11 The Managing Director introduced Philip Walker as the new Head of Cultural Services on a 12 month secondment from Bristol City Council.

**43. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

Leader and Cabinet Members' Question Time

43.1 Councillor Stephens asked the Leader of the Council if there would be an opportunity to debate announcements, in particular that by the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure which referred to support for the UK City of Culture 2025 ambition (42.6).

Councillor Cook replied that he would ask officers to consult the Constitution of the Council so that the matter may be taken forward.

43.2 Councillor Hilton asked the Leader of the Council if he intended to seek appointment to the Board and Chair of Marketing Gloucester Limited (MGL) as the former Leader had done.

Councillor Cook informed Councillor Hilton that he had no plans to do so and reminded him that the current Chair of MGL was a Cabinet Member.

Councillor Hilton noted that the former Leader of the Council had stepped down as MGL Chair due to a potential conflict of interest. He sought clarification from the Leader of the Council on his views concerning conflicts of interest.

Councillor Cook agreed that there should be no conflict of interest and stated that he had stepped down as Chair of Gloucester Docks Estates Company Limited for that reason.

43.3 Councillor Stephens asked the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources how many applications had been made to the Council Tax Discretionary Hardship Scheme, and how many of those had been successful.

Councillor H Norman answered that she was aware of one application but would check and share the latest figures.

Councillor Stephens noted that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) report presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 had estimated that approximately 3,500 households would be affected by that scheme and asked if there was a communication problem.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

Councillor H Norman referred to discussions with advice agencies and partner organisations but indicated that she wished to defer further debate as the scheme had only recently been introduced. However, she took the opportunity to urge residents in need of assistance to apply for support.

- 43.4 Councillor Hilton enquired of the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure whether the Review of Marketing Gloucester Limited (MGL) would be ready in time for Members to make a judgement at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Councillor Morgan advised that although the review had been at the request of the MGL board rather the Council, he was confident it would be available in time for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members to give the recommendations full consideration.

Councillor Hilton sought assurance that the full report would be placed in the public domain.

Councillor Morgan reassured Members that the report would be a public document except for any elements of a sensitive commercial nature should there be any.

- 43.5 Councillor Field referred to evidence he had been sent of antisocial behaviour and asked the Leader of the Council how such behaviour was being combatted.

Councillor Cook drew Members' attention to the work undertaken by the City Protection Officers and City Safe partnership to deal with antisocial behaviour and prevention of it occurring in the first place.

Councillor Field asked if the Leader was willing be introduced to the business person who had provided the evidence in question.

Councillor Cook confirmed that the matter came under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods who would co-operate with Councillor Field.

- 43.6 Councillor Wilson asked the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources if the warning issued by the auditors of the last set of Marketing Gloucester Limited (MGL) accounts was related to the £100,000 reduction to the MGL budget in 2018.

Councillor H Norman replied that the assumption could not be made, but that she would enquire into the matter and provide a written response.

- 43.7 Councillor Coole requested an update from the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure on progress made towards new seating the Gloucester Guildhall cinema.

Councillor Morgan stated that he would find out.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

- 43.8 Councillor Pullen informed the Cabinet Member for Environment that, when recently dealing with rainwater ingress, the Gloucestershire Bike Project had been told that the Council did not supply sandbags and sought confirmation that this information was correct.

Councillor Cook confirmed that the Council did not supply sandbags.

Councillor Pullen asked if the Cabinet Member for Environment was confident that the Council could fulfil its obligations in the event of a major flooding incident.

Councillor Cook replied that in the event of such an incident the County Council Civil Protection Team would respond rather than the City Council.

- 43.9 Councillor Lugg observed that despite recent road closures and flooding incidents no updates had been distributed to Members. She sought clarification from the Cabinet Member for Environment on the current position regarding issuing notifications.

Councillor Cook noted that the City Council website published updates on such incidents. He advised that although he had been briefed that the recent events represented minimal risk, he agreed that Members should receive updates and would raise the matter with officers.

- 43.10 Councillor Haigh requested from the Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure an update on work to address recent heating problems at Blackfriars Priory.

Councillor Morgan informed Members that the remedial work was expected to be complete next week after the parts necessary for repair of the boiler had been supplied.

Councillor Haigh noted that the Pinocchio performance rehearsals had been affected and asked if costs had been incurred.

Councillor Morgan gave assurance that he would get an answer.

- 43.11 Councillor Melvin as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee expressed concern that confidential material presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had appeared in the public domain. She sought reassurance from the Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources that the person responsible would resign their position.

Councillor H Norman advised that the Monitoring Officer was investigating the incident. She stated that it was not yet known if the person responsible was an officer, Member or from outside the Council but that once identified they would be dealt with in accordance with the applicable code of conduct.

- 43.12 Councillor Hampson referred to the cessation of kerbside collections for textiles which he believed may have financial implications for local charity

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

shops. He asked the Cabinet Member for Environment if the local charity shops had been notified.

Councillor Cook reiterated that the cessation had been necessary to save disposal costs. He reminded Members that charity shops were only one means by which residents might discard unwanted textiles, recycling sites being another.

Questions to Chairs of Meetings

- 43.13 Councillor Wilson asked the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee if the consideration of Marketing Gloucester Limited at the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 would be held in public.

Councillor Coole confirmed that it would and that they wanted any confidential element to be presented in an appendix so that the report remains public.

- 43.14 Councillor Haigh noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee had implemented the guidance recently issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. She asked the Chair what further steps they would take to ensure good scrutiny.

Councillor Coole advised that they would attend the Centre for Public Scrutiny Local Government Scrutiny Conference and intended the Committee to continue to be groundbreaking.

**44. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR PODSMEAD ESTATE REGENERATION AND MATSON ESTATE REGENERATION**

- 44.1 Council considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Strategy that sought approval for the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) for Podsmead Estate Regeneration and Matson Estate Regeneration.

Councillor Gravells thanked everyone including Members of all parties and residents who had contributed to the documents. He placed the SPDs in the context of the City Plan.

Councillor Coole reminded Members that the proposed regeneration would be life changing and commented on the importance of ensuring it is delivered.

Councillor Haigh related her experience from the Podsmead and Matson Neighbourhood Partnerships where the response and desire to engage had been positive.

Councillor Field drew Members attention to the pride residents felt in the area as revealed by the consultation exercise and improvements that would be hardwired into the planning process such as solar panels and electric charging points.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

Councillor Stephens commented that communication and tenant participation were vital. He further advised on the importance of exploring innovative models of delivery such as social enterprises and cooperatives to build communities for people to be proud of.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (1) the Supplementary Planning Document for the Matson Estate Regeneration be adopted.
- (2) the SPD for the Podsmead Estate Regeneration be adopted.
- (3) authority be delegated to the Head of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Housing and Planning to make minor amendments to the SPDs.

**45. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

**45.1 RESOLVED** that the report of the Corporate Director concerning the Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel be received.

**46. URGENT DECISION OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**46.1 RESOLVED** that the urgent decision of the Corporate Director be received.

**47. COUNCILLOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**47.1 RESOLVED** that the request for a leave of absence for Councillor Hawthorne be received.

**48. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notice of Motion from Councillor H Norman

48.1 Councillor H Norman proposed and Councillor Melvin seconded the following motion:

“This council notes that This Council resolves:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised by the organiser in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks; to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays;
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.”

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

48.2 The motion was put to the vote and was carried.

**48.3 RESOLVED:**

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised by the organiser in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks; to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays;
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Stephens

48.4 Councillor Stephens proposed and Councillor Pullen seconded the following motion:

“Council has declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ and recognises the urgency of the actions needed to tackle the issue.

It has further resolved to carry out a Carbon Audit to inform the development of a City Council action plan on climate change to strive to meet the following targets:

- 1) A net-zero city council carbon footprint by no later than 2030 (taking carbon off-setting into account)
- 2) A carbon neutral city by 2050

Council further notes that it is important to engage with and involve local citizens in the development and implementation of plans to tackle climate change.

Council therefore resolves:

1. Within six months to publish the City Council action plan on tackling climate change for public consultation
2. To develop a detailed plan for communication and engagement with local citizens
3. To arrange a ‘Climate Summit’ including climate change experts as the first stage in this process.”

48.5 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor H Norman seconded the following amendment:

“Council has declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ and recognises the urgency of the actions needed to tackle the issue.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

It has further resolved to carry out a Carbon Audit to inform the development of a City Council action plan on climate change to strive to meet the following targets:

- 1) A net-zero city council carbon footprint by no later than 2030 (taking carbon offsetting into account)
- 2) A carbon neutral city by 2050

Council further notes that it is important to engage with and involve local citizens in the development and implementation of plans to tackle climate change. **Council also acknowledges that we cannot work effectively on this major issue in isolation and notes that we are working with the County Council and other district councils, including sitting on their climate action panel, and that Climate Change Officers from the authorities are already working on detailed planning.**

Council therefore resolves:

1. Within six months to publish the City Council action plan on tackling climate change for public consultation
2. To develop a detailed plan for communication and engagement with local citizens
3. To arrange a 'Climate Summit' including climate change experts as the first stage in this process."

48.6 Councillor Stephens did not accept the amendment.

48.7 The amendment was put to the vote and was carried and therefore became the substantive motion.

48.8 The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried.

**48.9 RESOLVED** that:

Council has declared a 'Climate Emergency' and recognises the urgency of the actions needed to tackle the issue.

It has further resolved to carry out a Carbon Audit to inform the development of a City Council action plan on climate change to strive to meet the following targets:

- 1) A net-zero city council carbon footprint by no later than 2030 (taking carbon offsetting into account)
- 2) A carbon neutral city by 2050

Council further notes that it is important to engage with and involve local citizens in the development and implementation of plans to tackle climate change. Council also acknowledges that we cannot work effectively on this major issue in isolation and notes that we are working with the County Council and other district councils, including sitting on their climate action

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

panel, and that Climate Change Officers from the authorities are already working on detailed planning.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Coole

48.10 Councillor Coole proposed and Councillor Haigh seconded the following motion:

“This Council notes the publication of the indices of multiple deprivation by the Government for 2019. This Council recognises that while many super output areas have maintained or improved their position or are in good rankings nationally there are parts of the City which have significantly worsened over the last 10 years.

As an example, areas in Matson, Robinswood and White City Ward ranks in the worst 0.1% nationally for some measures. This Council believes that urgent action should be taken to understand the factors which are damaging the lives of our citizens in these areas including the benefits cap, the bedroom tax, universal credit, poor housing and other austerity measures including the cuts to council funding. This Council agrees to commission an independent study working with local members and community organisations to develop a plan to improve the lives of people in the 5 worst super output areas in the City and to bring a report to Council in February 2020.”

48.11 The motion was put to the vote and was lost.

By virtue of Rule of Procedure 6 in the Constitution of the Council, the Mayor moved that the meeting be closed as it had reached 3 hours duration. The motion was put to the vote and was lost.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Hilton

48.12 Councillor Hilton proposed and Councillor Wilson seconded the following motion:

“This council notes that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport announced on the 12th of October that £250 million would be made available for a Culture Investment Fund.

Of this new funding over £125m will be invested in regional museums and libraries around the country. More than £90m will be provided to extend the Cultural Development Fund which uses investment in heritage, culture and creativity to drive regeneration and growth.

This council agrees to work up a bid that will benefit the city of Gloucester and agrees that this bid should be developed with all party involvement.”

48.13 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor H Norman seconded the following amendment:

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

“This council ~~notes~~ **welcomes** that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport ~~announced~~ **announcement** on the 12th of October that £250 million would be made available for a Culture Investment Fund.

Of this new funding over £125m will be invested in regional museums and libraries around the country. More than £90m will be provided to extend the Cultural Development Fund which uses investment in heritage, culture and creativity to drive regeneration and growth.

This council ~~agrees~~ notes **that the Administration has already instructed officers** to work up a bid that will benefit the city of Gloucester, **once the bidding criteria has become available**, and agrees that this bid should be developed with all party **involvement from key stakeholders and finalised after consultation involving all Members of this Council.**”

48.14 The amendment was put to the vote and was carried and therefore became the substantive motion.

48.15 The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried.

**48.16 RESOLVED** that:

This council welcomes that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport announcement on the 12th of October that £250 million would be made available for a Culture Investment Fund.

Of this new funding over £125m will be invested in regional museums and libraries around the country. More than £90m will be provided to extend the Cultural Development Fund which uses investment in heritage, culture and creativity to drive regeneration and growth.

This council notes that the Administration has already instructed officers to work up a bid that will benefit the city of Gloucester, once the bidding criteria has become available, and agrees that this bid should be developed with all involvement from key stakeholders and finalised after consultation involving all Members of this Council.

Notice of Motion from Councillor Brazil

48.17 Councillor Brazil proposed and Councillor Bowkett seconded the following motion:

“This council notes that the Liberal Democrats have announced a plan to plant 60million trees in the UK every year to help combat climate change and improve biodiversity.

This council agrees to work up its own plan to plant a regular amount of trees each year.

This council asks the cabinet member, working in consultation with the other groups, to prepare a report on how the council can encourage more trees to be planted in Gloucester, on both public and private land.”

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

48.18 Councillor Cook proposed and Councillor H Norman seconded the following amendment:

“This council notes that the Liberal Democrats have announced a plan to plant 60 **the need to plant** millions of trees in the UK every year to help combat climate change and improve biodiversity.

This council agrees to work up its own plan to **already** plants a regular amount of trees each year, **but recognising limited land availability in the city is liaising with neighbouring councils to coordinate large scale planting opportunities in areas where land is available.**

This council asks the cabinet member, working in consultation with the other groups, to prepare a report on how the council can encourage more trees to be planted in Gloucester, on both public and private land.”

48.19 The amendment was put to the vote and was carried and therefore became the substantive motion.

48.20 The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and was carried.

**48.21 RESOLVED** that:

This Council notes the need to plant millions of trees in the UK every year to help combat climate change and improve biodiversity.

This council already plants a regular amount of trees each year, but recognising limited land availability in the city is liaising with neighbouring councils to coordinate large scale planting opportunities in areas where land is available.

This council asks the cabinet member, working in consultation with the other groups, to prepare a report on how the council can encourage more trees to be planted in Gloucester, on both public and private land.

**49. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

49.1 In respect of question 1, Councillor Coole noted that the Council had committed to the Armed Forces Community Covenant and asked if further action would be taken to ensure people do not fall through the net. Councillor Watkins advised that proposals were being discussed.

49.2 In respect of question 3, Councillor Hilton enquired if the Cabinet Member was aware that tents had been observed in places in addition to those mentioned, including Deans Way Meadow and St Oswalds. Councillor Watkins confirmed that further sites had since been reported. She took the opportunity to urge Members and communities alike to report incidents to StreetLink and gave reassurance that action would not be taken until the individual circumstances and needs of the people involved had been assessed.

**COUNCIL**  
**21.11.19**

- 49.3 In respect of question 6, Councillor Hilton advised that a charity had distributed tents to homeless people and asked if they had been told that this was not recommended by the Council. Councillor Watkins stated that the issue would be raised and confirmed that the Council worked closely with partners, charities and faith groups.
- 49.4 In respect of question 8, Councillor Brazil sought clarification of the source of the £49,000 applied for from the GWR Customer and Communities Improvement Fund. Councillor Watkins replied that a written response would be provided.
- 49.5 In respect of question 12, Councillor Field asked how much European Union funding would be spent. Councillor Cook advised that £2 million was to be split across a large number of areas and gave assurance that he would find out how much of that would go to Podsmead.
- 49.6 In respect of question 14, Councillor Haigh sought reassurance that any planned activities would appear on the Holocaust Memorial Trust Activities Map. Councillor Watkins confirmed that they would.

**50. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 50.1 RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public are present during consideration of this item there will be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

**51. EXEMPT MINUTES**

- 51.1 RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 September 2019, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Mayor.

**Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours**  
**Time of conclusion: 10.00 pm hours**

**Chair**